पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओमाक अपांग): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) वर्ष 1998-99 के पहले 9 महीनों (अप्रैल से दिसम्बर) के दौरान भारत का दौरा करने वाले कुल विदेशी पर्यटकों की संख्या और पर्यटन से अर्जित अनुमानित विदेशी मुद्रा क्रमशः 16,75,300 और 8424.04 करोड़ रुपये है।

Fiscal Incentives for Development of Tourism

1549. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give more fiscal incentives for development of tourism in the ocuntry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Incentives available to the approved hotels and hotel projects include income tex exemptions, interest subsidy for 1—3 Star and heritage category, import of special items, concessional custom duty on imports. Through a recent notification, Ministry of Commerce has made hotels, travel agents, tour operators, tourist transport operators eligible for recognition as Export House etc. on earning specified amount of free foreign exchange and entitling them to such benefits as specified in chapter 12 of the Hand Book of Procedures (Vol. I).

Protection of Tourist Places from Pollution

1550. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to stop pollution by plastic bags thrown by the tourists particularly on the Andaman Nicobar Islands;

(b) whether the Ministry is not taking serious steps to prevent plastic bags/tin foil/thermocol pollution in places of tourist interest; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism has formulated the Eco-Tourism Policy and Guidelines with the objective of preventing pollution and preserving the natural resources of the country. These guidelines are applicable to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands also.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued a notification dated 20.11.1998 notifying objections and suggestions on re-cycled plastic usages Rules, 1998. The Rules cover various items made of plastic. The Rules when finally notified by the Ministry of Environment & Forests will be applicable throughout the country.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (1997-98) of the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People, Mumbai and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Madam, On behalf of SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People, Mumbai, f· the year 1997-98, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.